



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,  
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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and the fullest possible development of such nobler faculties of the mind as imagination, taste, and the moral faculty. The backbone of this, as things now are, is Greek and Latin. The study of these makes us familiar with great but obsolete civilizations, with literary achievements also, whose magnificence the learner very dimly discerns through the thick mist of a half-known tongue, and from the study of which the average student may perhaps reap scarce any other benefit than that careful discrimination of words which the exercise of translation inculcates. The same time and careful study devoted to his own English literature would acquaint a student with achievements of art more magnificent and varied than aught of antiquity; nay more, would bring him into touch with the most masterful efforts of the most masterful race that the world has ever seen. He, the heir of all the ages, must be prepared to enter into his inheritance, and to carry out the glorious traditions of his race. It is an absurdity that at this time of day the education of a youth should so much concern itself with Latin verbs and Greek particles; there is no training that they give but could be given equally well by a study of our own noble language, from Anglo-Saxon times onwards; and the positive results of the latter course would be immeasurably superior.

It may be rank heresy to speak thus of such dignified veterans as Latin and Greek, but we cannot escape from the grim logic of facts. Things are not now as they were three hundred years ago. Then these were practically the only literatures of the Western World, and the man of culture wisely devoted his attention to them, leaving Hebrew and Arabic and so forth for specialists and pedants; for few subjects well taught has ever been the necessary rule of satisfactory education. But since then our own great literature has arisen. Life is short; if we study the classics as heretofore we must keep on neglecting a literature and a language immeasurably more important than they, and justly merit the scathing criticism of Ruskin that "Modern 'Education' for the most part signifies giving people the faculty of thinking wrong on every conceivable subject of importance to them"; and, vice versa, if we duly recognize our own English literature the "classics" must inevitably take that dignified back seat which the more ancient tongues have so long occupied.

## "THE EDUCATION OF A ROYAL PRINCESS."

(Continued from page 41.)

### PERSEVERENCE INSTILLED.

"IN the hay-making season the Princess was on the grass every afternoon with her little rake, fork, and cart, industriously employed in collecting the hay, which she would carry to a little distance, and returning, fill her cart again. An anecdote has been related with reference to this amusement which proves that even in pursuing her recreations care was taken to turn every little incident to the benefit of her future character. She had one day completely fatigued herself with filling and refilling her cart, and at length threw down her rake when it was but half loaded; her governess immediately desired her to resume it, and to finish filling her cart; she replied she was too tired. 'But Princess you should have thought of that before you began the last load, for you know we never leave anything unfinished;' and her Royal Highness was most judiciously persuaded to complete the work she had begun.

"Again—riding one day across the garden in her little carriage, a violent storm of wind suddenly arose, and the uncourtly element, little regarding the exalted dignity of the infant heiress of England, very unceremoniously blew her bonnet off her head; the Princess looked surprised and amused, but very handily replaced it; again it nearly flew away; her Royal Highness then appealed to her nurse, saying, 'It wont stay on;'—'Then hold it tight, Princess,' was the reply, and her Royal Highness did so with both her hands, laughing heartily all the way home.

### CHARITABLE DISPOSITIONS.

"It was pleasing to observe that amongst all the enjoyments her daily recreations afforded, none seemed more truly to gratify the little Princess than the indulgence of her benevolent and compassionate dispositions. A poor man or woman would frequently follow her carriage into the Palace



Court entreating charity, and the dear babe, long before she could speak plain, would lisp her command to the footman to give sixpence or a shilling to the beggar, which was always done according to her directions. This spontaneous desire to contribute to the welfare of her less fortunate fellow-creatures increased in large proportion to her advancing years. Her Royal Mother gave ample encouragement to the development of these amiable feelings both by precept and example; and it is well known that, not only have our public institutions of every description derived the greatest benefit from the generosity and kindness of the Duchess and her Royal Daughter, but that their private charities have been even more liberal and extensive. Kensington and its neighbourhood have long found cause to bless the hand which has been stretched out to raise the wretched, and alleviate the sorrows of the afflicted; and wherever the Duchess and the Princess have taken up their temporary abode, there have the same results been visible. Even in the most distant parts of the country has the name of our Princess been associated with acts of goodness and charity which have endeared it to every heart, and less perhaps for the intrinsic value of those acts, than for the condescension, sweetness, and grace, with which they have invariably been performed.

#### THE FAVOURITE DONKEY.

"The King, George the Fourth, presented the Princess Victoria on her fourth birthday, with a superb token of remembrance, a miniature portrait of himself most richly set in diamonds; and very shortly afterwards his Majesty issued cards of invitation for a state dinner party, signifying to the Duchess of Kent his wish that her infant daughter should accompany her, and be presented to the assembled guests in the drawing-room before they adjourned to the royal banquet.

"The Princess was full of joyful anticipation on the morning of this memorable visit, 'I am going,' said she, 'to see the King!' and, turning to her Royal Parent, she naïvely asked, 'Oh Mamma! shall I go upon my donkey?' Her donkey, be it remembered, was the present of her beloved Uncle, the Duke of York, and the greatest treasure she then possessed in the world; the King had never seen it, and with infantine

simplicity she believed that she could not pay her Royal Uncle a greater compliment than to visit him on her favourite 'Dickey.'

#### EDUCATION COMMENCED.

"Shortly after the Princess had completed her fourth year, her Royal Mother considering it necessary that some reverend gentleman of the Church of England should be appointed to superintend her present English and future classical and religious studies, took great pains to engage one in every way suitable and competent to this responsible and honourable office; at the recommendation of the Rev. Thomas Rennell, the late highly gifted vicar of Kensington, the Rev. George Davys, now Dean of Chester, was appointed Preceptor to her Royal Highness, and has continued from that time to the period of her accession to perform his important duties to the high satisfaction of their late Majesties, and of the Duchess of Kent. Mr. Davys found his royal pupil well grounded in all the requirements suited to her age; quick, intelligent, and generally very docile, though not, at this early age, much given to application.

"About two years afterwards, in the year 1825, an addition of £6000 per annum was unanimously voted by Parliament to the hitherto circumscribed income of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, for the honourable support and education of her royal daughter; and accordingly the Princess, having now reached an age at which she was capable of benefiting by the instructions of professors in various branches of study, her establishment was immediately placed upon a considerably enlarged scale; and the public were pleased to observe, from the new official appointments, that native talent chiefly was put in requisition for the education of the infant heiress.

"The Princess Feodore having nearly completed her eighteenth year, resigned her beloved governess, Miss Lehzen, whose valuable services were rewarded by an appointment to the same responsible situation about the person of the British Princess; and the nation is greatly indebted to this most estimable lady for the talent and judgment displayed in the early tuition of her Royal Pupil. In consideration of her distinguished merits in this capacity,



King George the Fourth conferred upon her, shortly before his death, the title of Baroness in the Kingdom of Hanover.

"The Rev. Mr. Davys still superintended the general rudiments of learning, but devoted his attention especially to her religious studies, her pious mother being determined to erect the fair fabric of her education upon the broad and firm basis of Christianity; Mr. Steward, the writing-master of Westminster school, was engaged to teach her writing and arithmetic; Madame Bourdin, dancing; and Mr. J. B. Sale, at the particular desire of the King, was appointed her music master; in the latter department her Royal Highness already exhibited the taste and talent hereditary in her family: she sang 'God save the King,' most sweetly, for the gratification of her royal relatives assembled at Marlborough House in her honour, on the day that she completed her sixth year.

#### CORRECT PRONUNCIATION.

"The very striking manner in which the Queen has delivered all public addresses since her accession to the throne, and particularly the correct and beautiful elocution of her speeches to her Parliament, naturally induces an observation upon the distinctness and propriety of her pronunciation of her native language, for which she has been remarkable from her earliest infancy, and upon which subject a curious anecdote occurred when she was about four years old. A little girl of her own age was one day indulged by a walk in Kensington Gardens for the purpose of seeing the little Princess, of whom she had heard much and was enthusiastically fond. She met the Princess on her donkey; her Royal Highness, always attracted by children, stooped down to speak to little Margaret, and the child proudly presented her future Queen with a pretty nosegay of fresh flowers, which was graciously accepted. The next morning, breakfasting with her papa, and relating all the pleasures of the preceding day, her father asked her if the Princess was pleased with her flowers, and whether she said 'thank ye' for them. 'No, Papa,' replied the observant little girl, 'the Princess did not say *thank ye*, she said I THANK YOU.'

"At this age her Royal Highness also understood French perfectly, and could read and speak German as well as English.

#### RAMSGATE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

"For several ensuing summers, during the early childhood of the Princess, these two agreeable watering places were alternately chosen by the Duchess of Kent for the temporary residence of her family; and the inhabitants were equally gratified by the substantial benefits derived from these royal visits, and by the opportunity they afforded of becoming intimately acquainted with the person, manners, and disposition of the heiress presumptive to the British throne, who speedily became quite the delight of both places. When the weather was favourable she was constantly to be seen twice a day upon the sands at Ramsgate, in the morning on her donkey, and in the afternoon on foot, always attended by her governess, and one or two men-servants, and sometimes accompanied by her mother and sister. She frequently amused herself in the afternoon by digging on the sands with a spade, and throwing the stones into the sea with her hands, which she would afterwards rub together to clean. When tired, she would seat herself upon a camp stool opposite the sea, and after a short rest return again to her labours so intently as not to observe anything that was passing round her, and in no way discomposed by the spectators, who would assemble in large groups to witness her recreations. She would sometimes run up to her ankles in the sea, wearing thick shoes over her boots. Her Royal Highness was occasionally permitted to play with the children of the gentry, whom she met upon the beach; but if she attempted to take unfair advantage of her exalted rank, the ladies in attendance always interfered to set her right.

#### ACUTE OBSERVATION.

"The young Princess was remarkable for the habit of fixing her large blue eyes on the face of any persons who attracted her attention, and looking at them steadily, or as some people have expressed it, staring at them, as if desirous of impressing their features upon her memory; and she was observed to possess the faculty peculiar to her family of recollecting everybody she had once seen; but the names belonging to the faces of her acquaintances would sometimes escape her recollection; and she one day walked up to a strange gentleman, the father of a little girl whose name she



had accidentally heard, and looking up in his face, said in the most engaging tone, 'Will you be so good, sir, as to tell me the name of that little girl, for I have quite forgotten it?'

"Walking, on another occasion, with her Royal Mother, whose hand she held, she inquired with earnestness, 'Mamma, why do all the gentlemen take off their hats to me, they do not to sister Feodore?'

"Running once very fast upon the sands, her foot slipped and she fell; a gentleman, who was close at the moment, assisted her to rise: the Princess thanked him in the most graceful and engaging manner, and on his expressing a hope that she was not hurt, gaily exclaimed, 'Oh, no! I am not hurt, but Mamma will say the Princess of England should not be so giddy.'

#### AFFECTION FOR HER MOTHER.

"An anecdote was current at this period which is deserving of record here as affording an interesting proof of the remarkably amiable and affectionate disposition of the little Princess, and particularly of the strong attachment to her mother which has always formed a striking feature in her character. The royal party one day honoured Sir William Garrow with a visit at his residence at Pegwell Bay, and were conducted by the host over his house and grounds; amongst other curiosities was a fine marble bath, which the young Princess, in her eagerness to examine, approached so close that losing her balance she fell in; she of course cried loudly, but was no sooner extricated from her unpleasant situation, and found herself once more above ground, than her tears and sobs were interrupted to inquire, 'Does mamma know that I am not hurt?'

#### VISITS TO WINDSOR.

"When the Princess Victoria was seven years old, she received an invitation, for the first time, from the King, to accompany her mother to the Royal Lodge in Windsor Park, and great indeed was the illustrious child's enjoyment during the three days to which this fascinating visit extended. The King was in his turn so much pleased and flattered by his little niece's engaging and lively manner, and by the artless affection she expressed for him, that he presented

her on taking leave with a beautiful pair of diamond bracelets, and promised an early renewal of the pleasure she had now enjoyed. Accordingly, during the ensuing years of King George's reign, the Princess generally passed some days of the summer revelling in all the luxury of the stately castle, to which the court very shortly removed, surrounded by regal pomp, magnificence, and flattery, and permitted every indulgence which could dazzle the youthful imagination, or lend rapidity to the wings of time; whilst her Uncle King, for by this familiar title she was accustomed to address his majesty, absolutely forbade any contradiction of her inclinations during her visits to him. The judicious mother, however, always shortened these seducing visits as much as in propriety she could; and the country may perhaps have ample reason to rejoice that *the fair Maid of Kent* was in her earliest years so far removed from the direct succession, as to permit of her education on those principles of self-denial, and in that absence of court intrigue and falsehood, which are so essential to forming the infant mind for the dignified and blameless performance of the important duties imposed by that high destiny to which she was heir. Even in more recent times, when the royal maiden stood on the very step of the throne, her mother, still the sole guardian of her person, has cautiously abstained from permitting her unlimited association with the courtly circle, feeling, doubtless, and perhaps even experiencing from these temporary visits, how pernicious would be its effects upon the ductile heart of youth.

#### QUICKNESS OF REPARTEE.

"One day, during her first visit at the Royal Lodge, the King entered the drawing-room leading his little niece by the hand; the band was stationed as usual in the adjoining conservatory; 'Now, Victoria,' said his Majesty, 'the band is in the next room, and shall play any tune you please, what shall it be?' 'Oh! Uncle King,' replied her Royal Highness with quickness, 'I should like God save the King better than any other tune.'

"Another time his Majesty asked the Princess which she had most enjoyed of all the amusements she had partaken of during her stay at Windsor, 'The ride I took with you



Uncle King,' was the ready reply; his Majesty had once indulged her with a short tête-a-tête airing in his pony phaeton which he had driven himself.

#### BEHNES'S BUST.

"It was shortly after this that the young Princess sat, by the King's desire, to Mr. Behnes for that masterly bust which attracted such general admiration at the exhibition of the Royal Academy. This exquisite model of loveliness and innocence now adorns the corridor of Windsor Castle, where it will probably remain for many ages a proud monument of the dignity and beauty which distinguished the infant years of England's most cherished Queen; in it is strikingly portrayed that peculiarity of carriage which characterised even the childhood of the Princess, and which is thus alluded to in a poetical address upon her ninth birthday:—

'They say e'en now thou hast a Queenly look;  
And walk'st thy Palace with majestic gait,  
As though each pace thy Royal footsteps took  
Were conscious that it moved a thing of state:  
Thy hand as if it knew a Sceptre's weight  
They say doth wave;—thy brow as if it bore  
A regal diadem doth look sedate;  
Yet, though of dignity thou hast such store  
Of sweetness infantine thou still possessest more.'

(To be continued.)

#### THE SEASONS.

"KNOWLEDGE NEVER LEARNED OF SCHOOLS."

Edited by MISS ARMITT.

#### MERE-FOWL.

At last,—for at last it seems, after days of driving sleet and snow, or mist and rain and darkness—there comes a morning when the whole wintry world of mountain and mere is visible again; and the lost sun appears, blinking with cheerful horizontal rays as his glowing circle peeps, about nine o'clock, above white Wansfell.

At once, and for the first time, the sentient world feels itself to be in a new year. A page in the dreariest chapter of winter is turned. There is an undefined sense of hope in the air, and a certain amount of cheerful bustle prevails among all moving creatures. Hope, yes! and expectation, though over mountain and fell a thin pall of white yet lies, through which rock and scree loom black and drear; though skies—except for the patch whence the sun so kindly smiles for a while—are a pallid grey; though the oak trees grouped majestically upon the rocky slope are as frowningly dark from rugged trunk to myriad cresting tip as the rocks themselves,—not touched with that pinky-brown hue of hope that the higher larch trees carry; though the only sound is the trickling of water about the sodden ground, or the low rumble of the swollen beck, tumbling somewhere over the upper rocks of Loughrigg, or the fall of a stone from the distant quarry, or the bark of a Raven over the scar.

Yet, in face of all these bleak signs of winter's inanimate state, what cheery sights there are among active living things, as soon as we stand to look! Here is the Dipper, that betakes itself so oddly in the winter to a lacustral life, and uses the lake as a feeding-ground almost like a Duck, only that it splashes and wriggles far more than any Duck will do; here it is, winging low along the shore, ready to alight. But where, in all this particular stretch of rushy, slushy margin, so repugnant to its stone-loving claws, will it choose a spot for settling? So! in desperation it has rushed into a large